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Message Text

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53
ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

SP-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 H-03 STR-08

PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 TAR-02 DRC-01 /145 W
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R 240857Z JUN 74
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE

PASS CANBERRA AND WELLINGTON FOR AGATT AND BELL

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: EAGR, JA
SUBJECT: MEAT TRADE RESTRICTIONS

1. SUMMARY. AGATT MET WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL (DG), LIVESTOCK DIV, MAF JUNE 21 AS PART OF CONTINUING INFORMAL DIALOGUE RE CURRENT WORLD, US AND JAPAN BEEF SITUATION. DG ALREADY AWARE DEP ASST SECY BELL'S PLANNED VISIT JUNE 28 AS PER SECY BUTZ' PRESS STATEMENT REPORTED HERE, CONFIRMED CONTINUED DEPRESSED STATE PRODUCERS IN JAPAN, THAT MAF BEEF PROMOTION EFFORTS TO DATE HAVE HAD NO NOTICEABLE EFFECT ON CONSUMPTION, SAID MAF WORKING ON NEW PROGRAM FOR BEEF TO BE DECIDED BY THE END OF AUGUST, AND DOUBTED BEEF IMPORTS COULD BE RESUMED UNTIL AT LEAST THIS FALL. ALSO SAID NEW PLAN FOR STABILIZING MIXED FEED PRICES BEING STUDIED.

2. DG WELL INFORMED ON BEEF SITUATION AND PRESSURES IN US,
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INCLUDING ACTIONS TAKEN BY USDA TO DATE. EMPHASIZED CONTINUED LEVEL

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OF PRICES TO JAPANESE PRODUCER FOR SLAUGHTER CATTLE WHICH STILL WELL BELOW MAF TARGET, HIGH FEED COSTS TO PRODUCERS, AND LACK OF CONSUMER DEMAND.

3. DG BELIEVES BELL TRIP TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND IS TO GET THEM TO REDUCE SHIPMENTS TO US AND THIS WILL BE BEST SOLUTION TO CURRENT PROBLEM. AGATT POINTED OUT THAT EVEN IF THIS IS GOAL AND IS ACCOMPLISHED, THIS WOULD SEEM ONLY PARTIAL SOLUTION. JAPAN COULD HELP BY PREMITTING IMPORTS TO CONTINUE UNDER QUOTA, OR AT SOME RECENT HISTORICAL LEVEL WITH NORMAL MARKET GROWTH FACTOR, ETC., ALL OF WHICH WOULD SEEM PREFERABLE TO COMPLETE CUTOFF AND WOULD FACILITATE MARKET ADJUESTMENT. DG GAVE NO INDICATION ANY OF THESE POSSIBILITIES ACCEPTABLE. HOWEVER, DID INDICATE MAF WOULD CONSIDER THIS AS WELL AS POSSIBILITY OF INCREASING 1,000 TON HOTEL QUOTA FOR QUALITY BEEF.

4. ZENNOH'S YEN 3,200/MT REDUCTION IN GROSS AVERAGE MIXED FEED PRICES AS OF JULY 1 WILL GIVE NEW AVERAGE PRICE ALL FEED TYPES FOB PLANT OF YEN 63,978 VERSUS HIGH YEN 68,000 LEVEL REACHED IN MARCH .
AGATT SUGGESTED THAT AS FEED PRICES HAVE AND ARE EXPECTED TO DECLINE FURTHER, MAINLY DUE TO ALL OUT PRODUCTION EFFORTS FEEDGRAIN PRODUCERS IN US, PERHAPS TARGET PRICES TO PRODUCERS COULD BE ADJUSTED LIKEWISE. POINT WAS WELL TAKEN. ALSO REMINDED DG THAT WE WISH TO KNOW SIZE OF THEIR LIKELY FEEDGRAIN REQUIREMENTS FROM US IN COMING YEAR WHICH WE HAVE ASSUMED IN ACREAGES PLANTED WILL BE EQUAL TO OR ABOVE CURRENT YEAR. DG WAS NONCOMMITTAL BUT INDICATED THEY WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS AT EARLY DATE.

5. JAPANESE IMPORT DATA INDICATES THAT IN THE JANUARY THROUGH APRIL 1974 PERIOD 32,606 MT OF BEEF WAS IMPORTED WITH 5,777 MT FROM UNITED STATES. IMPORTS DURING SAME PERIOD OF 1973 WERE 26,295 MT AND 467 MT RESPECTIVELY. FEBRUARY 1 LIMIT ON PURCHASES NOW STARTING HAVE FULL EFFECT ON IMPORTS.

6. BOTH AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND HAVE PROTESTED GOJ QUOTA SUSPENSION TO FOREIGN OFFICE IN WRITING.
SHOESMITH

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